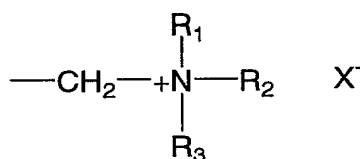
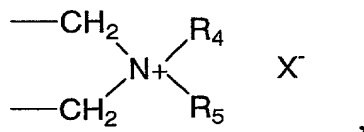


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sizing agent comprising a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.
2. The sizing agent according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is a water-soluble polysaccharide extracted from soybean or soybean extraction residue and subjected to desalinating purification.
3. The sizing agent according to claim 1, further comprising a cationic polymer.
4. The sizing agent according to claim 3, wherein said cationic polymer is fixed to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.
5. The sizing agent according to claim 4, wherein said cationic polymer is graft-polymerized to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.
6. The sizing agent according to claim 3, wherein said cationic polymer is an acrylic polymer, a vinyl polymer or an allyl polymer each having a quaternary amino group.
7. The sizing agent according to claim 6, wherein said cationic polymer is a hydrophilic, synthetic resin comprising a structure unit having a quaternary amino group represented by the following general formula:



or



- 20 wherein R₁-R₅ are groups selected from the group consisting of alkyl groups having 1-7 carbon atoms, aryl groups, benzyl groups and combinations thereof, which may be the same or different, and X⁻ is a

counter ion.

8. The sizing agent according to claim 7, wherein said cationic polymer further comprises a structure unit derived from a hydrophilic acrylic, vinyl or allyl monomer, and/or a structure unit derived from a hydrophobic monomer.

9. The sizing agent according to claim 1, further containing a surfactant.

10. The sizing agent according to claim 3, further containing a surfactant.

11. The sizing agent according to claim 9, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having HLB of 5-15.

12. The sizing agent according to claim 10, wherein said surfactant is a nonionic surfactant having HLB of 5-15.

13. The sizing agent according to claim 3, wherein a weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is 0-50.

14. The sizing agent according to claim 13, wherein the weight ratio of said cationic polymer to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is 0.5-20.

15. The sizing agent according to claim 9, wherein a weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is 0.05-200.

16. The sizing agent according to claim 15, wherein the weight ratio of said surfactant to said water-soluble soybean polysaccharide is 0.1-10.

17. A recording paper comprising fibrous pulp and a sizing agent comprising a water-soluble soybean polysaccharide.

18. The recording paper according to claim 17, wherein said sizing agent further comprises a cationic polymer.

19. The recording paper according to claim 17, wherein said sizing agent further comprises a surfactant.